

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for insertion within a body passage comprising:

a first section including a resiliently deformable first annular element and a first tubular graft that is less resilient than said first annular element, said first tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, said first annular element attached to one of said free ends;

a second section axially aligned with said first section, said second section including a resiliently deformable second annular element comprising a bundle of radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire, a surface of a given winding having substantially continuous contact with a surface of another winding for a complete turn of the given winding, a diameter of the second annular element substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of the windings, said second annular element adapted to be folded around its diametric axis to assume a smaller cross-sectional configuration, and a second tubular graft, said second tubular graft of said second section adapted to communicate with said first tubular graft of said first section, said second tubular graft having one end which defines a single passage and an opposite end which defines a pair of bifurcated passages which communicate with said single passage;

a third prosthesis section including a pair of annular resilient deformable annular elements and a third tubular graft, said third tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, one of said annular elements attached to one of the free ends of said third tubular graft, the other of said annular elements attached to the other of free ends of said third tubular graft, said third graft connected to one of said pair of bifurcated passages of said second tubular graft, one of said annular elements adapted to engage the interior of said second prosthesis section; and

a fourth prosthesis section including a pair of annular resilient deformable annular elements and a fourth tubular graft, said fourth tubular graft having a pair of free ends and an internal surface, one of said annular elements attached to one of the free ends of said fourth tubular graft, the other of said annular elements attached to the other of free ends of said fourth

graft, said fourth graft connected to the other of said pair of bifurcated passages of said second tubular graft, one of said annular elements adapted to engage the interior of said second prosthesis section.

Claims 33-64 (Canceled).

65. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends and a first diameter; and
a deformable ring having a diameter, the ring comprising windings formed of a strand of resilient metal wire, said windings connected together to form in a bundle to be closely associated, the windings wrapped one over the other such that a surface of a particular winding has substantially continuous contact with a surface of another winding for a complete turn of the particular winding, and one around the other, and when undeformed the diameter of said bundle of windings corresponds with the diameter of said ring substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of the windings, the undeformed diameter of said ring greater than the first diameter of the tubular graft, said ring secured to said graft adjacent one of said free ends.

66. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends; and
an annular element comprising a bundle of radially overlapping windings formed of a single strand of resilient metal wire, a particular winding having substantially continuous contact with one or more other windings throughout a complete turn of said particular winding, said windings connected together, the diameter of said bundle of windings corresponding with the a diameter of said annular element substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of said windings, said windings adapted to be concentric with said tubular graft and located adjacent one of said free ends.

67. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:
a tubular graft having a pair of free ends and a longitudinal axis, and
a ring located adjacent one of said free ends and coaxial therewith, said ring having a diameter and comprising windings formed of a single strand of resilient metal wire, the diameter of the ring substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of the windings, the

windings wound one over the other ~~to form coils that are and~~ connected together in a compact to form a bundle, the bundle of said windings having a substantially circular cross-section, the cross-section taken at any location on the circumference of said ring along a line that is parallel to said longitudinal axis such that no matter where said cross-section is taken a profile of said cross-section is substantially the same, ~~the diameter of said windings corresponding with the diameter of said ring, said windings coaxial with said tubular graft.~~

68. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 67 wherein the minimum bending diameter of said ring is less than that of a solid ring of the same dimensions.

69. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 65 wherein a portion of said tubular graft proximate said ring has a second diameter.

70. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

a graft; and

an annular resilient element attached to said graft, said element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire, a diameter of the annular element substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of said windings, said annular element adapted to be folded about its diametric axis to assume a smaller cross-sectional configuration and said element adapted to engage the ~~be situated~~ inside of a body passage in said folded ~~a C-shaped deformed~~ configuration, folded about a diametric axis of said ~~element, and when said folded ring is engaged with said body passage, said graft to extend along~~ element, adapted to be positioned ~~positionable~~ past a length of a first blood vessel, a part of said graft adapted to be positioned past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

71. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 70 wherein a diameter of said graft is sized to be approximately the same as a diameter of a given blood vessel.

72. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 70 wherein said element has an undeformed diameter greater than the diameter of said graft.

73. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 70 wherein an undeformed diameter of said element is sized to be greater than a diameter of a given blood vessel.

Claim 74 (Canceled).

75. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

an annular resilient element having a diametric axis, said element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient metal wire, a surface of one of said windings in substantially continuous contact with a surface of another of said windings, said contact for a full turn of said one of said windings and said contact not limited to contact with the surface of the same another of said windings, a diameter of the annular element substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of said windings, said annular element adapted to be folded around its diametric axis to assume a smaller cross-sectional configuration ~~said element foldable along said diametric axis into a C-shaped configuration overall, said C-shaped, said folded~~ element adapted to be situated in said blood vessel with an arcuate portion of said ~~C-shaped~~ folded element engaged with said blood vessel; and

a graft, said element attached to an end of said graft.

76. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein said graft is adapted to extend along a length of a first blood vessel and a part of said graft is positionable past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

77. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein a diameter of said graft is approximately the same as a diameter of the blood vessel, in which said prosthesis is to be positioned.

78. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein the unfolded diameter of said element is greater than the diameter of said graft.

79. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 75 wherein the unfolded diameter of said element is greater than a diameter of the blood vessel, in which said prosthesis is to be positioned.

Claim 80 (Canceled).

81. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis for being positioned in a blood vessel comprising:

a graft; and

an annular resilient element attached to said graft, said element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient metal wire, a diameter of the annular element substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of said windings, said annular element adapted to be folded around its diametric axis to assume a smaller cross-sectional configuration, said graft adapted to be positioned within a first blood vessel proximate to a second blood vessel~~[[,]]~~ such that the diametric axis of said element is proximate to an intersection of said first blood vessel and said second blood vessel and a part of said graft is to extend past an said intersection of said first blood vessel and said second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening and to permit communication of said intersection, only a part of both said graft and said annular element to engage contact a portion of said first blood vessel located past said second blood vessel.

82. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising:

a graft; and

a deformable, annular, resilient element located near one end of said graft, said element comprising a bundle of overlapping windings formed of a strand of wire, said bundle substantially circular in cross-section, wherein said cross-section can be taken at any point on a circumference of said element, a diameter of at least two of said overlapping windings having different radii, said element substantially the same as a diameter of at least one of said windings, said element adapted to be folded around its diametric axis and to resiliently engage a first human blood vessel in a C-shaped deformed configuration, folded about a diametric axis of said element, a part of said C-shaped deformed element to resiliently engage said first human blood

vessel past a point of intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel to permit communication of said intersection.